

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to express my overwhelming support of SB 522. Throughout the years Connecticut residents have seen the State's bear population continue to grow. As the population grows, we have seen unprecedented numbers of interactions between humans and bears in our urban areas. The CTDEEP needs to be able to manage that population to keep it at a sustainable level that ensures a healthy ecosystem and to minimize the threat that bears could pose to public safety. The best tool to manage the bear population is a regulated hunting season controlled by CT DEEP with strict input from State Biologists.

More and more bear sighting are being reported every year, and more are being reported that are not tagged bears. This large influx of sightings only solidifies the fact that we do have an ever increasing population of bears in the state and that they should be managed. Are we going to wait until a person or even a young child gets hurt or injured due to our own negligence of not managing the wildlife in this state?

Not only does a bear hunting season allow management of the bear population, but it will also be a great potential revenue generator. If CT DEEP implements a lottery system similar to the lottery that Maine uses for moose hunting permits where applicants pay for chances to be drawn, the state will certainly generate significant amounts of revenue.

Please show your support for our ecosystem, our outdoorsmen and women, and our state budget by supporting SB 522

Thank you

Eric Schupp